

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising ~~a natural cationic polymer~~ a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) and polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μ m and comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of ~~vinyl fatty ester units~~ vinyl acetate units, wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of ~~a natural cationic polymer~~ a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) to form a mixture, such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid content of 7.9 to 39 and wherein the glass transition temperature (TG) of (B) is from 32 °C to 59°C;

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer, and

wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

2. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A pulp sheet made by the method according to claim 1.

8. (Previously Presented) The pulp sheet according to claim 7, wherein the polymer emulsion of claim 1 is present in an amount of 0.05 to 20 parts by weight in terms of solid content to 100 parts by weight of the pulp sheet.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising ~~a synthetic cationic polymer a~~
cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent [[A')]] (A) having a
viscosity of 20 mPa·s or more in a 7 wt. % aqueous solution as determined at 50°C with a
Brookfield viscometer and Rotor No. 2 at 60 rpm, ~~and a nitrogen content of 1.0 wt. % or less and~~
polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μ m and having a glass
transition temperature (TG) of ~~90°C or less~~ 32°C to 59°C having vinyl monomer-derived
structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of ~~vinyl fatty ester units~~ vinyl acetate units,
wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method,
suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of a
~~synthetic cationic polymer~~ a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent
[[A')]] (A), such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100
parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); and wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid
content of 7.9 to 39; and

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer,
wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method of improving stiffness of paper comprising:

bringing pulp into contact with a polymer emulsion comprising ~~a natural cationic polymer~~ a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) and polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μm and comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of ~~vinyl fatty ester units~~ vinyl acetate units, wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of ~~a natural cationic polymer~~ a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A), such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid content of 7.9 to 39; and wherein the glass transition temperature (TG) of (B) is from 32 °C to 59°C; and

wherein said pulp is contacted with said polymer emulsion at the time of papermaking.

11. – 12. (Canceled)

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.43 wt. % or less of a polymerizable unsaturated group – containing anionic monomer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.78 wt. % or less of a nonionic hydrophilic group – containing monomer.

15. - 17. **(Canceled)**

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion contains particles (B) in an amount of 5 to 60 wt. %.

19. - 20. **(Canceled)**